

**ABSTRACT**

A new oral polymeric controlled release formulation suitable for the once-a-day  
5 administration of valproate compounds, such as divalproex sodium, has been discovered.  
This formulation exhibits significant advantages over the sustained release valproate  
formulations of the prior art. This formulation minimizes the variation between peak and  
trough plasma levels of valproate over a 24 hour dosing period. This formulation follows a  
zero-order release pattern thus producing essentially flat plasma levels of valproate, once  
10 steady-state levels have been achieved. This results in a significantly lower incidence of side  
effects for patients consuming such a formulation.